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MEMORANDUM

To: Reporters and EditorsRe: Job gains in MarchDa: Friday, April 2, 2004

Sen. Chuck Grassley, chairman of the Committee on Finance, made the following comment on today's announcement that the nation's employers added 308,000 new jobs in March, hiring at the fastest pace in four years.

"Job creation is very good news. People have to provide for their families. They need not only jobs, but quality jobs that are part of careers. The more jobs available, the more choices they have to advance, especially when employers are in a good financial position to train workers. This growth is evidence of a presidential administration and a congressional majority willing to reduce the tax burden on individuals and small businesses, which create most jobs.

"But we can't rest on our success. For example, we have to pass the JOBS Act now pending in the Senate. This bill will cut the tax rate for manufacturing performed in the United States and will provide a tremendous boost for new manufacturing activity. Democratic leaders are holding up this bill to try to score political points on totally unrelated issues. For every month we delay enacting the JOBS Act, the sanctions on U.S. exports to Europe increase. We sell a lot of goods to Europe. The targeted products include jewelry, timber, paper products, textiles, meat, vegetables, fruit, dairy products, aluminum and steel. These sanctions are hurting U.S. jobs, and we can make them go away only if we enact the JOBS Act. We're on the right course for more job creation and economic growth. I hope the Senate Democratic leadership doesn't stand in the way."